In the sixteenth century an attempt was made in Poland to unite the Jewish communities in a common organization; with a view to & better preservation of Jewish interests in relations with the Government, they had a common representation in the so-called Synod of the Four Countries. But though the Synod long played an important part in the Jewish life of Poland, the organization was not reproduced in other countries. Only when in the beginning of the nineteenth century the Jewish communities were reorganized by the State, attempts were made in several countries *(e.g.* in Moravia and Hungary) to form unions for certain matters with which single communities were not fit to deal, *e.g.* the training of rabbis and religious teachers. The French Consistorial organization set the example, which, in countries where the State did not create such a common organization, was replaced by voluntary unions. Thus, in 1869, the Union of Jewish Communities was formed in Berlin, followed by similar unions in the more important German States. The need of such an organization was emphasized by the difficulties which of recent times hundreds of Jewish communities in small towns experienced with regard to maintaining a properly organized worship; their membership was dwindling, especially through migration to the cities, and they became dependent on help from the centre. In the

spring of 1933, the Jewish unions in the various German States combined in a "Reich-Union of Jewish Provincial Associations[5]', Besides, the chief Jewish associations have formed a Board of Deputies to represent the interests of German Jewry in its relations with the Government.

Also in other countries there is a tendency to form compulsory or voluntary unions of the local communities. In Roumania, in 1929, the local Jewish communities were recognized by law, and the establishment of separate Orthodox, Liberal, and Sephardic communities was permitted; communities of each type combine in a Union, and the three Unions in a Jewish Congress, which is supreme in matters of